

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 4, and 5 are pending. Claims 1, 4, and 5, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over US Publication No. 2002/0164149 to Wilkinson (hereinafter, merely “Wilkinson”) in view of US Publication No. 2001/0020261 to Ando et al. (hereinafter, merely “Ando”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...a master file generating means for generating a master file in an AV independent format, where the file unit metadata and the frame

unit metadata are brought together into one file separately from each other,
wherein the master file includes a pointer to each of a plurality of video files, the respective audio files of a plurality channels, a file unit metadata file, a frame unit metadata file, and an auxiliary file..." (Emphasis added)

Support for the above-identified features is at least at paragraphs [0143]-[0145].

The master file generating process is further described in paragraphs [0200]-[0206] and Figure

12. Paragraphs [0143]-[0145] and [0203]-[0205] of the Specification are reproduced below:

[0143] Then, a master file (Master File) describing a pointer to each of the video file, the respective audio files of the eight channels, the file unit metadata file, the frame unit metadata file, and the auxiliary file is formed in the AV independent format.

[0144] Specifically, the master file is described in XML (Extensible Markup Language), for example. As the pointer to each of the video file, the respective audio files of the eight channels, the file unit metadata file, the frame unit metadata file, and the auxiliary file, a file name of each file, for example, is described in the master file.

[0145] It is thus possible to refer from the master file to the video file, the respective audio files of the eight channels, the file unit metadata file, the frame unit metadata file, and the auxiliary file.

[0203] When a file in the standard AV format is supplied to and stored in the buffer 31 (FIG. 8), for example, the master file generating process is started. First, in step S1, the master file generating unit 32 (FIG. 8) generates file names of a file unit metadata file, a frame unit metadata file, an auxiliary file, a video file, and an audio file of each channel. The process proceeds to step S2. In step S2, the master file generating unit 32 generates a master file describing a link to the file of each file name generated in step S1 in XML. The master file generating unit 32 supplies the master file to the buffer 44 to store the master file in the buffer 44. Then the master file generating process is ended.

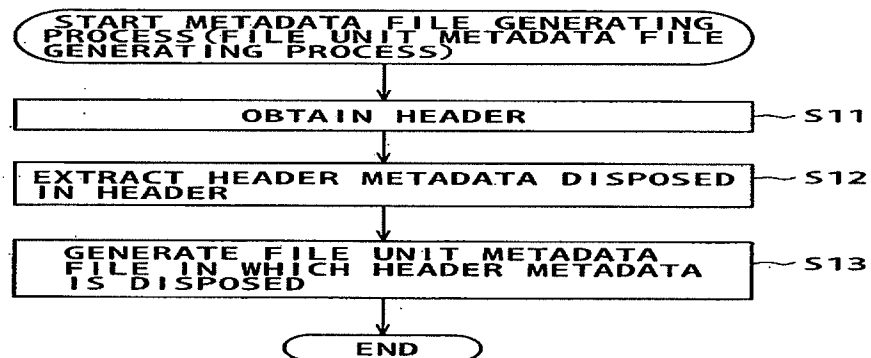
[0204] The file unit metadata file generating process for generating the file unit metadata file will next be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 12.

[0205] When a file in the standard AV format is supplied to and stored in the buffer 31 (FIG. 8), for example, the file unit metadata file generating process is started. First, in step S11, the header obtaining unit 33 obtains a header from the file in the standard AV format stored in the buffer 31. The header obtaining unit 33 supplies the header to the header metadata extracting unit 35. The process proceeds to step S12. In step S12, the header metadata extracting unit 35 extracts header metadata from the header supplied from the header obtaining unit 33. The header metadata extracting unit 35 supplies file unit metadata disposed in the header metadata to the metadata file generating unit 37. The process proceeds to step S13. In step S13, the metadata file generating unit 37 generates a file unit metadata file in which the file unit metadata supplied from the header metadata extracting unit 35 is disposed. The metadata file generating unit 37 supplies the file unit metadata file to the buffer 44 to store the file unit metadata file in the buffer 44. Then the file unit metadata file generating process is ended.

Figure 12 of the Specification is reproduced below.

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FIG. 12



As understood by Applicants, Ando relates to an information recording method, an information recording device, an information reproducing device, and an information storage medium which are suitable for recording various types of information, including video information and/or audio information, and further computer data, onto a recording medium.

As understood by Applicants, Wilkinson relates to a method and apparatus for combining data with other material. The present invention also relates to a signal processing apparatus arranged to carry out the method, a digital bitstream and a computer program product.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach or disclose the above discussed feature of claim 1. Specifically, neither Ando nor Wilkinson, considered either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a master file

generating means for generating a master file in an AV independent format, where the file unit metadata and the frame unit metadata are brought together into one file separately from each other, and that the master file is a pointer to each of a plurality of video files, the respective audio files of a plurality channels, a file unit metadata file, a frame unit metadata file, and an auxiliary file, as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action concedes that Wilkinson does not teach generating a master file in an AV independent format, where the file unit metadata and the frame unit metadata are brought together into one file, and instead relies on Ando. Cited portions of Ando, specifically, the master file in figures 24 and 25. Applicants respectfully submit that the master file in Ando is a root directory and teaches that the files are separated in their own data file.

See Figure 25 of Ando below:

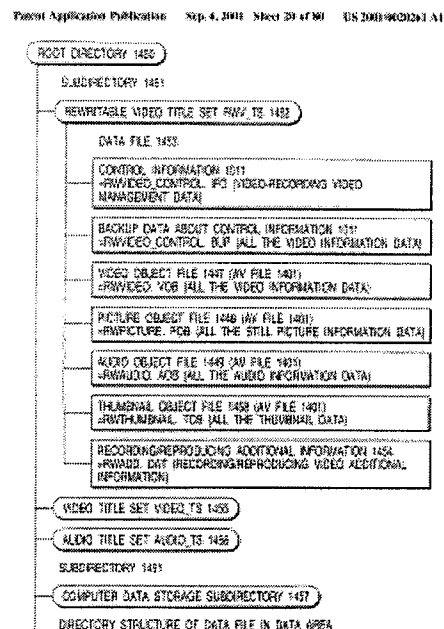


FIG. 25

The cited disclosure, paragraph [0875] provides no teaching or suggestion to the above-identified features of claim 1. Paragraph [0875] is reproduced below:

[0875] As for the recorded area extent and the unused area extent in the AV file, the length of the allocation space is an integral multiple of an ECC block and the first logical sector number in the allocation space corresponds to an integral multiple of an ECC block.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Wilkinson and Ando, taken alone or in combination fail to teach the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Wilkinson and Ando fail to teach or suggest that a master file generating means for generating a master file in an AV independent format, where the file unit metadata and the frame unit metadata are brought together into one file separately from each other, and that the master file is a pointer to each of a plurality of video files, the respective audio files of a plurality channels, a file unit metadata file, a frame unit metadata file, and an auxiliary file.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, the independent claims 4 and 5 are also patentable.

CONCLUSION

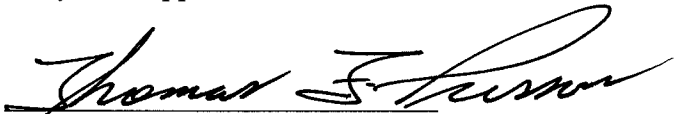
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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